

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM USDEL JEC PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 123

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USDEL JEC PARIS 21500

E.O.: 11652: GDS, DECON 8/8/74.

TAGS: VS, PINT

SUBJ: GVN-PRG BILATERALS: 20TH PLENARY SESSION, AUGUST 8, 1973

REF: USDEL JEC PARIS 21366

1. SUMMARY: THI (PRG) TODAY DELIVERED SHARP ATTACK ON US AND GVN FOR VIOLATING PARIS AGREEMENT, ESPECIALLY PROVISIONS ON CIVILIAN DETAINEES. VIEN (GVN) ASSERTED IT WAS THE OTHER SIDE WHICH WAS VIOLATING THE AGREEMENT AND URGED REAL NEGOTIATIONS. GVN SUGGESTED DELAY OF NEXT MEETING UNTIL EARLY SEPTEMBER TO ACCOMMODATE FRENCH PERSONNEL PROBLEMS, BUT AGREED TO PRG PROPOSAL TO MEET AUGUST 16. HENCEFORTH GVN DEL WILL NOT HOLD PRESS CONFERENCES ON MEETING DAYS IN EFFORT TO FURTHER REDUCE VISIBILITY OF TALKS. END SUMMARY.

2. DEPUTY PRG DELEGATION CHIEF DINH B THI ACCUSED US AND SAIGON ADMINISTRATION OF VIOLATING THE ESSENTIAL PROVISIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE. THI ASSERTED URGENCY OF SETTLING THREE QUESTIONS: AN EFFECTIVE CEASE-FIRE, IMMEDIATE RETURN OF ALL CIVILIAN DETAINEES, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES. THI SPOKE AT LENGTH ON ALLEGEDLY "BARBAROUS" GVN PRISON SYSTEM, WHICH CONTAINED 200 THOUSAND "PATRIOTS AND
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PACIFISTS," AND ALLEGED S RESPONSIBILITY THEREFOR.

THI CONCLUDED BY DEMANDING US FORCE SAIGON ADMINISTRATION TO COMPLY WITH PROVISIONS ON DETAINEES OF PARIS AGREEMENT, THE RELEVANT PROTOCOL, AND THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE.

3. THE GVN REPRESENTATIVE, VICE PM NGUYEN LUU VIEN, ASSERTED IT WAS THE OTHER SIDE THAT HAD SYSEMATICALLY SABOTAGED PARIS AGREEMENT, PROTOCOLS, AND JOINT COMMUNIQUE; AND THAT HANOI WAS STILL ATTEMPTING TO TAKE OVER SVN BY SUBVERSION AND FORCE. VIEN URGED OTHER SIDE TO ACCEPT GVN PROPOSAL THAT FOUR COMMISSIONS SIMULTANEOUSLY DISCUSS THE FOUR ESSENTIAL MATTERS TO BE SETTLED: GUARANTEE OF DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES, ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND CONCORD, GENERAL ELECTIONS, AND VIETNAMESE ARMED FORCES IN SVN. IN CLOSING VIEN STATED: "OUR DISCUSSIONS AT THIS CONFERENCE TABLE WILL BECOME POINTLESS IF YOU PERSIST IN CONSIDERING THEIS MEETING PLACE AS A PROPAGANDA FORUM INSTEAD OF AS A PLACE FOR REAL NEGOTIATIONS."

4. VIEN SUGGESTED THAT, IN VIEW OF FRENCH PERSONNEL PROBLEMS IN AUGUST (SEE REFTTEL), NEXT SESSION MIGHT BE HELD IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. THI DISAGREED AND PROPOSED NEXT THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, WHICH GVN DEL ACCEPTED.

5. AS DELEGATIONS LEFT MEETING PLACE GVN DEL SPOKESMAN NGUYEN THRIEU DAN ANNOUNCED TO NEWSMEN THAT HENCEFORTH HIS DELEGATION WOULD NOT GIVE A REGULAR PRESS CONFERENCE ON MEETING DAYS BECAUSE THESE PRESS CONFERENCES REQUIRED AN ADMINISTRATIVE EFFORT BY THE FRENCH AND WERE OF ALMOST NO INTEREST IN THE ABSENCE OF MOVEMENT IN THE TALKS AS A RESULT OF THE PERSISTENT REFUSAL OF THE OTHER SIDE TO NEGOTIATE. DAN NOTED HE WOULD STILL BE AVAILABLE TO NEWSMEN AND WOULD GIVE PRESS CONFERENCES WHEN NECESSARY.

6. ASKED BY NEWSMEN ABOUT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CAMBODIA AND THE PARIS TALKS, VIEN STATED THE PRESENT SITUATION IN CAMBODIA DID NOT AFFECT THEM BUT THE SITUATION MIGHT BE DIFFERENT IF PHNOM PENH FELL.

7. AT 3 PM PRESS CONFERENCE PGR SPOKESMAN LY VAN SAU
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SUMMED UP THI'S STATEMENT AND CLAIMED US HAD DELIBERATELY BOMBED CAMBODIAN CIVILIANS TO TERRORIZE THEM.

8. IN DISCUSSION WITH GVN SPOKESMAN DAN THIS AFTERNOON US DELOFF NOTED VARIOUS GVN DEL REMARKS AND ACTIONS REPORTED ABOVE COULD GIVE IMPRESSION GVN DEL WAS SEEKING TO BRING ABOUT SUSPENSION OF TALKS. DAN REPLIED GVN DEL HAD NO SUCH INTENTION; THAT AIM OF GVN DEL WAS MERELY

TO HAVE TALKS RECEIVE EVEN LESS ATTENTION THAN AT PRESENT.
FOR EXAMPLE, VERY FEW NEWSMEN NOW ATTEND PRESS CONFERENCES
AND HE HOPED AFTER GOING IT ALONE FOR A FEW WEEKS PRG
SPOKESMAN WOULD ALSO STOP GIVING A BRIEFING EVERY MEETING
DAY.

9. COMMENT: GVN DEL, OR AT LEAST DAN, APPEARS TO BE AWARE
THAT GVN DEL SHOULD AVOID GIVING IMPRESSION IT WANTS TO
SUSPEND OR BREAK OFF THE TALKS.
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